

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

To remedy a clerical error, lease replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 19 as follows:

The user data reading section 604 sequentially writes the additional information in the user additional information buffer 605 and sequentially performs only reading of the GOP user data 307 according to the written additional information. In this process, if the size of the user data is 0, the next picture is searched for. When effective user data 623 is prepared, the user data reading section 604 sets the user data valid signal 624 to 1 and outputs a frame number 625 which corresponds to the effective user data 623. The frame number 625 includes information about how ~~manieth-picture~~ many pictures from the leading end a picture including this data is and information about how ~~manieth-word~~ many words from the leading end the user data which is to be read next is. The frame number 625 indicates information about how ~~manieth-frame~~ many frames the user data which is to be placed should be regarded as belonging to.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 2 as follows:

In order to achieve this objective, according to the present invention, ~~the format of user data placed in a user extension area in a received input code compliant with a certain standard is converted to generate an output code, or user data is added to a received input code compliant with a certain standard to generate an output code. In this process, a parameter which determines an allowable range of the amount of data in the input code is changed to comply with the format conversion or addition of the user data. Further, the input code obtained after the parameter change and the user data are multiplexed in a predetermined format to generate the output code according to the changed parameter.~~ an input code stored in a hierarchical data structure is converted to generate an output code. The input code includes (1) a parameter related to the amount of data encoded by the input code, (2) user data at a first level of the hierarchical data structure, (3) and main data at a second level of the hierarchical data structure. The output code, stored in the hierarchical data structure, is generated by modifying the input code by moving the user data to a third level of the hierarchical data structure, and changing the parameter to reflect the change in code size effected by the moving of the user data. Further, the main data included in the output code is identical to the main data included in the input code.